

SECRET
UNCLASSIFIED

II wwwG/4.1



Tactical Possibility Relating to the German Peace Treaty Issue

At the Summit Conference it seems certain that Khrushchev will try to initiate a discussion of the Soviet proposals for the conclusion of a peace treaty with the "two Germanies".

As a tactical move designed to place the Soviet Union on the defensive the West might counter the Soviet peace treaty proposal with a counter-proposal which would focus public opinion upon a basic issue dividing the West and the USSR - the right of self-determination. This might be done simply and effectively by proposing a plebiscite to be held in both parts of Germany and in Berlin under effective supervision on the question whether a German peace treaty should be negotiated and signed by (1) the freely elected government of a reunified Germany or (2) representatives of the Government of the German Federal Republic and the "GDR". An alternative formulation might be related more specifically to the Western Peace Plan. Although it seems unlikely that the Soviet Union would accept the principle of a properly supervised plebiscite in East Germany it is important to formulate the plebiscite question so that the uninformed portion of the West German population would not be confused by specious Soviet language.

A Suggested Formulation of Plebiscite Question on a German Peace Treaty

In formulating a question for a plebiscite on a German peace treaty it would be advisable clearly to identify which part of the question represents the Western position and which the Soviet position. The following formulation is therefore suggested.

The U.S., the U.K., and France have proposed that a German peace treaty should be negotiated and signed by the freely elected government of a reunified Germany. This position is endorsed by the GFR.

The USSR has proposed that a peace treaty should be negotiated and signed by representatives of the GFR and the "GDR" separately and that the relations between the GFR and "GDR" be left for the two German states to settle. This position is endorsed by the "GDR".

Do you favor

1. ☒ The proposal of the U.S., U.K., and France, endorsed by the GFR

or

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	MR 87-445-1
By	JAB 8/12/88
NLE Date	

~~SECRET~~



2. ☐ The proposal of the USSR, endorsed by the "GDR"?

An alternative formulation placing more specific emphasis on the Western Peace Plan might be:

The United States, the United Kingdom and France have proposed a Western Peace Plan designed to bring into existence a freely elected government of a reunified Germany with which a peace treaty should be negotiated and signed. This position is endorsed by the German Federal Republic.

The USSR has proposed that a peace treaty should be negotiated and signed by representatives of the GFR and the "GDR" separately and that the relations between the GFR and the "GDR" be left for the German states to settle. This position is endorsed by the "GDR".

Do you favor

1. ☐ The proposal of the U.S., U.K., and France endorsed by the GFR
- or
2. ☐ The proposal of the USSR, endorsed by the "GDR"?

~~SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED